

Recruitment - Parole Officer Recruits

Parole Officer Recruits work under the immediate supervision of a Sergeant within the Parole Board's Division of Parole. Prior to being assigned to one of the Division's district offices, recruits must complete a 24-week Police Training Commission (PTC) certified academy course that includes arrest procedures, investigation techniques, parolee supervision, and other law enforcement subjects including unarmed defensive tactics and firearms training.

Upon successful completion of the academy training, a recruit is empowered to act as a law enforcement officer anywhere in the State of New Jersey and will assist Senior Parole Officers in the performance of parolee supervision duties for a one-year probationary period. During this probationary period, the recruit will work under the close supervision of an officer mentor or as a member of a group to receive on-the-job training and instruction.

Recruits will become familiar with programs that address the social, emotional and economic adjustment of parolees re-entering society. These programs include assistance with housing, education and employment, addiction and mental illness. As part of this process recruits will participate in developing parole plans for prospective parolees and write reports to be used in the preparation of case histories. When a parolee arrives at the district office for a first visit, recruits will interview them and explain the conditions of their parole.

As part of their ongoing training, recruits will learn to recognize and rapidly evaluate potentially dangerous situations involving parolees or parole violators, and to exercise caution, restraint and judgment in handling these circumstances to avoid personal injury and protect public safety. Recruits will also assist in placing parole violators under arrest, act as liaisons with local law enforcement and other agencies, and coordinate collection efforts for court-imposed revenue obligations.

Parole Officer Recruit eligibility requirements include graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Criminal Justice, Psychology, or related Social or Behavioral Science. Each candidate must be at least 18, a citizen of the United States, and must pass a civil service examination administered by the New Jersey Department of Personnel.